

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 03-10-2009

CALL TO ORDER :

INVOCATION:

Pastor Jenny Tucker-Laurel Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLLCALL:

All seven(7)members present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:

New police officer Joshua P. Gonzales was sworn in.

Proclamation-National Professional Social Work Month

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval-March 10, 2009

Approval of February 24, 2009 Town Council Meeting Minutes.

Both passed 7/0 voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Richard Hardaway announced that a report by Howard Fink on the finances are to follow. Next meeting to be held Wednesday, March 18th. At 5:30 P.M.

PUBLIC WORKS:

NO REPORT

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

NO REPORT

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mr Pettit made the motion to review the health benefit plan as outlined in the Personnel Meeting with Forest Financial. Mr. Hardaway second the motion. 7/0 voice vote to approve was made.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Ron Widing made the statement that the Police Dept. would apply for a COPS GRANT through the stimulus package.

PARKS & RECREATION:

NO REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

NO REPORT

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

NO REPORT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

NO REPORT

UTILITY LIAISON:

NO REPORT

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

NONE

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 09-02

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana concerning licenses and fees for dogs and cats; Article 111, Section 5-43, Section 5-44 and Section 45 concerning expiration and renewal. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Huish and Mr. Widing second it. 7/0 roll call vote to approve was made.

ORDINANCE 09-04

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana providing that the Zoning Ordinance Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana be amended by changing the established second amendment to Century Plaza Planned Unit Development for revision of Tracts 5,8, and outlot B to create Tracts 16 and 17 for future commercial development.

Mr. Pettit stated that the bus stop at Century Plaza better be up & going before this building permit is issued. GPTC is committed to this. UPDATE: The license is approved and the bus shelter is ordered.

Mr. Hardaway said the bus shelter will be in the vicinity of NTB at the traffic light. Mr. Pettit asked for Item #7 condition-Extensive cooperation with right of way dedication for Rhode Island & US 30 with Tri-Land(a donation, not cash) Mr. Pettit wants the property donated to the Town of Merrillville when we make the right of way improvements.

Mr. Pettit said Item #6, adding the security guard patrolling to the zoning commitment, we add the zoning commitment motion Andy Sylwestrowicz and Ron Widing? They both replied yes with the motion.

Howard Fink asked if Tri-land is going to install the bus shelter and the answer was no. Mr. Huish asked who was going to install this shelter and GPTC was the answer. Mr. Hardaway will look into who is actually going to install this shelter.

Mr. Sylwestrowicz wants to amend the motion to include the 7 items discussed and Mr. Widing 's second stands. Mr. Bower noted that there are 6 items in the zoning commitment letter and the 7th item is the continuation of adding the security currently provided by the plaza. Mr. Pettit said technically there are 5 items listed in the zoning commitment letter and 1 more is being added. Six(6) voted yes with a roll call vote with one(1) abstaining(Mr. Shudick)

ORDINANCE 09-05

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2009 budget within various line items retroactive from January 1, 2009. Mr. Goralczyk made the motion to approve and Mr. Hardaway second it. Six(6) voted yes with a roll call vote with one(1) Mr. Pettit abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 09-02

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Merrillville, Indiana supporting buying American manufactured goods and a general buy American policy.

Whereas, the Town Council, for the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, recognizes the importance on our national economy of buying American manufactured goods over those produced and or manufactured elsewhere; and Whereas, 4 million U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2000, amounting to losses of nearly one-fourth of all U.S.manufacturing jobs. In 2007, the U.S. shed 800,000 manufacturing jobs. Factory orders now stand at record lows while the U.S. racked up a \$700 billion trade deficit in 2007(U.S. census data); and Whereas, the U.S. is, by far, the worlds largest importer, importing an estimated \$819 billion in goods in 2007; and Whereas, supporting domestic manufacturing by purchasing American-made products is the one method that will not result in the "leakage" of U.S. funds overseas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA, as follows:

SECTION ONE:

- 1. To the best of our ability and whenever possible, the Town of Merrillville will purchase American Manufactured Goods and Services over those produced in foreign countries;and**
- 2. The Town Council for the Town of Merrillville believes that a combined and sustained effort in Supporting American Manufactured goods and services will create substantial new economic Opportunity and high paying jobs for our community and thus ensure a strong economic future.**

SECTION TWO: Enactment Clause: That this resolution shall take effect, and be in full force and Effect, from and after its passage by the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana.

ADOPTED AND RESOLVED THIS 10TH DAY OF MARCH 2009.

Mr. Hardaway made the motion to approve and Mr. Sylwestrowicz second it. 7/0 roll call vote to approve was made.

BZA ACTIONS

Petitioner: Efthimios & Theodora Adams

Owner: Fredrick Brown

Location: 9337 E. 93rd. Avenue

Request: Variance of use approval in an R-1, single family residential zone.

Purpose: For expansion on previously approved variance of use (BZ17-389-uV) to include horses as well as other proposed farm animals such as sheep, goats, poultry, rabbits, a llama, donkey and pig (Hobby Farm) for personal use only to expand accessory building to house animals.

Case#: Z53uV12-1208

Action taken by Board of Zoning Appeals: Denied 5/0

NOTE: THIS PETITION WAS REMANDED BACK TO THE BZA AT THE JANUARY 21, 2009 TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP DUE TO AN ERROR IN THE ADDRESS. LEGAL NOTICE AND ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS WERE RE-NOTIFIED.

Mr. Pettit made the motion to approve the denial and Mr. Widing second it. 7/0 roll call vote to approve the denial was made.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pettit attended the NIRPC Transportation Policy Committee Meeting and NIRPC tried to trim 933 million project list to 18.5 million that Lake and Porter will receive form the Stimulus Package.

Tentatively approved: Cedar Lake-525,000, allowed NIRPC to take 712,000 for planning. They have discussed how to allocate the rest of the money. Mr. Pettit need to go back to the next meeting on Monday at 1pm and Submit the four major road repairs that need to be repaired. They are: 53rd Ave. Georgia to Miss. St.-150K 73rd Ave. from Miss St. to Clark St.-300K, Madison Harrison from 53rd Ave. to US 30- 300K, and /Colorado St. Harms Rd. to 101st. Ave.-750K. Mr. Sylwestrowicz made the motion to submit these four roads to be repaired with NIRPC money and Mr. Widing second it. 7/0 voice vote to approve was made.

Mr. Hardaway would like to put on hold 61st Ave. because of the lack of funding. When the opportunity arises he would like to get this taken care of.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Shudick asked Howard Fink to put on the next agenda a request from Ross Township Trustee John Rooda the Easter Function for Merrillville.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Budget & Finance Committee Meeting-Wednesday, March 18, 2009 @ 5:30 p.m.

Town Council Workshop-Wednesday, March 18, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.

Joseph D. Shudick, Town Council President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer